Delayed but Not Denied

by Gwen Thomas – TAP Graduate 2010

Slow and steady wins the race—and leads to completion of the TAP program! I have a new understanding of one of my favorite scriptures, Isaiah 40: 29- 31. "...God energizes those who get tired, gives fresh strength to dropouts .For even young people tire and drop out, young folk in their prime stumble and fall. But those who wait upon God get fresh strength. They spread their wings and soar like eagles, they run and don't get tired, and they walk and don't lag behind.' (The Message)

After starting the TAP program 6 years ago, I was blessed to graduate by the grace of God, technology and Rev, Kathy Clark. Thanks to an online History and Polity class, I was able to complete the program in spite of life challenges and a heavy work travel schedule. And honestly, I think my graduation was maybe even more special to me than it might have been three years ago. First, I got to be "in a class all by myself". And even more delightful, I got to share it with my sister, Rev. Dr, Valerie Bridgeman, who preached for the graduation service.

Valerie challenged us to "Whistle While You Work!" And she reminded me that the ultimate pay for the work that Jesus did is symbolized by the cross. She urged me take up my cross with care and consciousness.

I believe that what seemed like a stall or missed opportunity to graduate with my former classmates was really all in Divine Order.

Thanks be to God!